The table of fees under the old Regulation was as follows:—

		Rs.	Chs.
(a)	When the value of the document did not exceed Rs 50	...	14
(b)	When the value exceeded Rs. 50 but did not exceed Rs. 100	1	...
(c)	When the value exceeded Rs. 100 but did not exceed Rs. 1,000	2	...
(d)	When it exceeded Rs 1,000 but did not exceed Rs. 5,000	5	...
(e)	For each additional Rs. 1,000 or part thereof above Rs. 5,000	1	...

The table of fees under section 72 of Regulation II of 1087 was as follows :—

(a)	When the value did not exceed Rs. 25				...	14
(b)	When the value exceeded Rs. 25, but did not exceed Rs. 50				...	21
(c)	Do	„ 50	Do	„ 100	1	...
(d)	Do	„ 100	Do	„ 300	2	...
(e)	Do	„ 300	Do	„ 600	3	...
(f)	Do	„ 600	Do	1,000	4	...
(g)	Do	1,000	Do	5,000	5	...
(h)	And for each additional Rs. 1,000 or part thereof above Rs. 5,000				1	...

The Member pointed out that the above enhanced rates of fees sat heavily on the poor people whose transactions were in respect of small amounts. The rich might not feel it, if the fees for big amounts were raised. He, therefore, prayed that the fees for documents whose value did not exceed Rs. 1,000 might be fixed at the same rates as those under the repealed Regulation I of 1070, that the fees for documents whose value exceeded Rs. 1,000 but did not exceed Rs. 5,000 might be fixed at Rs. 5 and that the fees for each additional Rs. 1,000 or part thereof above Rs. 5,000 might be still further increased. He also said that the fees for making searches for granting copies as per the rules under the present Regulation were excessive when compared with the rates as per the old Regulation. He prayed that the search fees and copying fees also might be fixed at the same rates as those under the old Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

47. Need for establishing a Sub-Registry Office at Pallikkal.

Mr. P. M. Narayana Kurup (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) said that the Navaikulam Sub-registry office was located in the north-easternmost part of that *pakuthi* and that parties from Edava, Varkalai, Vettur, Ayirur, Chemmaruthi and Cheruniyur *pakuthis* had to go more than 18 or 20 miles to reach that office. With a view to avoid the trouble, the people generally transacted their business by promissory notes and plain debt-bonds. The Government were, therefore, losers.

Then again, the *pakuthis* of Madavur, Kilimanur, Pazhayakunnummel, Vellallur, Pallikkal and Velinallur, which were only three miles from the Navaikulam Sub-registry office, were included in the Chadayamangalam Sub-district, which was 12 to 15 miles from the above *pakuthis*. The people of Varkalai had long been applying for the opening of a Sub-registry office there. The Member was of opinion that the Government would not be losers by opening additional Sub-registry offices. In view of the arguments set forth above, the Member prayed that the Navaikulam and Chadayamangalam Sub-registry offices might be shifted to Varkalai and Pallikkal respectively, or, if that was not possible, that two new Sub-registry offices might be opened at Varkalai and Pallikkal, the necessary re-adjustments being made in respect of the territorial jurisdiction of each office. He said that the transfer of the Navaikulam office to Varkalai would prove beneficial to the people of Vettur, Edava, Varkalai, Ayirur, Chemmaruthi, Cheruniyur, Manampur and Ottur, while the *pakuthis* of Pallikkal, Madavur, Vellallur, Navaikulam, Kilimanur, Pazhayakunnummel, Velinallur, Kummil and Chadayamangalam would have greater convenience, if the Chadayamangalam office be shifted to Pallikkal. The Member also added that, with the new transfers, the Idamulakkal *pakuthi*, now under the

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jurisdiction of the Chadayamangalam Sub-registry office, might be added on to the Punalur Sub-district and that Navaikulam might be brought under the jurisdiction of the proposed Pallikkal Sub-registry office.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

48. Need for the appointment of Notaries public and licensed document-writers.

Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman (Member, Nominated) regretted the absence of a law regulating the transfer of property. But the Registration Regulation contained a provision to the effect that all transfers of immovable property should be done by means of registered documents. Though it was laid down that the persons in whose hand-writing the deeds for registration were copied should write their names in the deeds and sign them, there was no statutory provision as to the qualifications of document-writers or conveyancers. Most of the so-called document-writers of the present day were lads who were 10 or 12 years old. Though they were in the habit of putting their signatures to the instruments presented for registration, they were, as a rule, ignorant of the contents of the documents they were supposed to have conveyanced and signed. The real conveyancers were others who posed themselves as clever in drafting the documents. Those people made use of the services of the lads to copy their drafts. All the controversial litigation in the country could be easily traced to those pretentious drafters of deeds described above. There were others who were not mere lads. The men could be easily seen and identified as those loitering about the verandahs of Sub-Registrars' offices, eager to get hold of people who might be resorting to those offices. It would be difficult to find, among those people, decent men of any social status or of tolerable literacy, not to speak of any who might have received the requisite schooling or training to fit them for such a task. Their drafting had led several people to utter ruin. The large volume of contentious and vexatious litigation in the civil courts of the land was the result of the mischief in drafting. There were instances in which deeds registered as outright purchase had been contended in civil courts as mortgage. Such cases arose because of the deliberately ambiguous use of words in the registered deeds. The Member here dilated on the nature of the composition of the deeds and observed that the lawyers' abilities and methods of presenting the cases decided the fate of the parties to such deeds. The remedy for such a state of affairs was that those who were responsible for the drafting of the deeds should be educated men who realized their responsibility. In some cases, it might happen that the drafters were lawyers, especially in cases where the subject-matter of the deed was large landed property. But it could not be expected that all deeds would be prepared by lawyers, because their fee would be larger than that of the document-writers. In view of the evils explained above, it was highly necessary, the Member contended, that Government should take some immediate steps to remove the hardships the people were suffering from. He was not in a position to suggest any effective remedy. But what obtained in Ceylon was as follows. The deeds for registration were being drafted by Notaries Public before whom the parties to the deed had to present themselves. If the party or parties be not known to the Notary Public, there should be a witness to identify the party or parties who made the Notary Public understand the lines on which a deed had to be drawn up. The Notary Public then drew up a draft and read it over to the parties and explained to them the true import. If the draft was approved, the parties signed the deed attested by the witness or witnesses. The Notary Public had then to certify that the parties were known to him direct or that they were introduced to him through another person in case they were not known to him. Deeds were not copied on stamped sheets as in Travancore. The cost of stamps and registration fee was realized and stamps of the required value were affixed to the deed when it was registered. The Notary Public took a copy of the document, got it signed by the parties and attested by the witnesses and then sent it on to the Sub-Registrar for registration. The Registering Officer would register the document in due form, keep a copy for his office and return the original deed registered to the Notary Public who would hand it over

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